

From: Mike Durand
To: Attny Gen Ashcroft
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I have been a supporter of Microsoft from the very start of these investigations and I am very gratified to see that the Justice Department has finally decided to settle their antitrust suit. I think it is about time we complete this case and move forward, as three years was just too long.

I hope that the Justice Department appreciates how much that Microsoft has sacrificed in order to reach a settlement and bring this proceedings to an end. By giving up access to its software with out recrimination as well as agreeing to design future versions of Windows easier to use with competitors products, Microsoft is forgoing an enormous amount of potential profit. Anyone who thinks that the suit should continue after seeing the terms of this settlement must be out to profit off of Microsoft's hard work.

It is a shame that nine states still refuse to settle. By trying to support their own state budget shortfalls, they are hurting their own constituents. I hope that their voters will make them realize the error of their ways directly in order to end any further litigation against Microsoft.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Durand